

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 01939 011531Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 PA-02
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5414
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MILI, MPOL, GW, US
SUBJECT: GEORG LEBER RESIGNS, BUT SCHMIDT ASKS HIM TO
RECONSIDER

1. ACCORDING TO FRG SPOKESMAN (BOELLING) IN FEBRUARY 1
PRESS CONFERENCE AT 1430 LOCAL TIME, DEFENSE MINISTER
LEBER SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT
AND HIS CABINET THAT MORNING. LEBER SAID THAT, IN HIS
PREVIOUS STATEMENTS BEFORE THE BUNDESTAG, HE HAD SAID
THAT THE 1974 BUGGING EPISODE IN THE APARTMENT OF HIS
THEN SECRETARY WAS THE ONLY EPISODE OF ITS KIND. BASED
ON SUBSEQUENT INFORMATION, LEBER HAD LEARNED THAT HIS
STATEMENTS WERE NOT ACCURATE. BY RESIGNING, HE WAS
ACCEPTING THE POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS MISTAKE.

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2. AT THE REQUEST OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND THE ENTIRE
CABINET, ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, LEBER WAS ASKED TO
REVIEW HIS DECISION TO RESIGN. ACCORDINGLY, HIS RESIG-
NATION WAS NOT ACCEPTED.

3. IN THE WAKE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING LEBER,
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAS CALLED A MEETING FOR THE MORNING

OF FEBRUARY 2 OF THE BUNDESTAG LEADERSHIP FROM ALL OF THE PARTIES, AT WHICH LEBER WILL BE PRESENT. ONE MATTER THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED WILL BE ACTIVITIES OF THE MILITAERISCHE ABSCHIRMDIENST (M.A.D.), THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S COUNTERINTELLIGENCE BRANCH.

4. IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT RELATING TO POSSIBLE CABINET CHANGES, THE FRG SPOKESMAN ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT SCIENCE AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTER ROHDE HAS ALSO ASKED TO RESIGN TO DEVOTE MORE TIME TO LABOR-RELATED SPD PARTY ACTIVITIES. THIS RESIGNATION, TOO, HAS APPARENTLY NOT BEEN ACCEPTED, ALTHOUGH IT IS AGREED THAT ROHDE WILL LEAVE THE CABINET THIS YEAR.
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